

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

SECRET/CONTROL

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VIA AIR POUCH

Dispatch No: MGB/A-1833 En

BSC/Ops/250

25 May 1948

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch "M"
FROM : Acting Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
SUBJECT : Recruitment of Helmut CASIMIR *note diff. in spelling - Fraybohn*

1. On 3 May 1948 this office was notified by Public Safety Branch, Office of Military Government, Berlin Sector, that a certain Helmut CASIMIR had approached the Chief of Police for the US Sector, Bruno BLIEMEISTER, and requested an interview with US police officials. CASIMIR, who claimed to be an official of the German Administration for the Interior in the Soviet Zone, contacted BLIEMEISTER through Herr DETALD, Chief of the Police Committee of the Social Democratic Party in Berlin (cf BSC/Ops/222). We expressed an interest in the matter, and Maj BOND of Public Safety Branch instructed BLIEMEISTER to arrange a meeting between CASIMIR and the undersigned.

2. The meeting took place in the late afternoon of 3 May 1948 in the German police headquarters for the US Sector. Preliminary questioning of CASIMIR revealed that he was the acting Deputy Chief of "K" Division of the Administration of the Interior in Berlin - Wilhelmsruhe, and thus was in a position to provide information of interest.

3. Helmut CASIMIR was born on 23 March 1915. His father, a physician employed by the Berlin City Administration, lived in comfortable circumstances, and was able to provide the boy with a good education. Thus Helmut attended in turn a private school in Berlin - Spandau (where the family lived at that time), the Kant Gymnasium from 1924 to 1934, the University of Koenigsberg, East Prussia, from 1934 to 1936, and the University of Berlin from 1936 to 1938. He obtained his law degree on 19 October 1938 before the Berlin Kammergericht. From early 1939 until he was drafted in December 1940, CASIMIR was employed as law clerk by the Berlin Criminal Court. During the war he served with various field units, participating in the campaigns in Russia in 1942, Rumania in 1944, and Poland in 1944. He reached the rank of Sergeant (Unteroffizier). Captured at the end of the war by US forces, he was released in late 1945 because he had a wife and four small children and was not a member of the Nazi Party (he was, however, active in the Hitler Jugend and a member of the National Socialist Lawyers' Association). Returning to Berlin, he found his home and his apartment at Berlin - Neukölln, Sonnenallee 92, damaged by the war. In April 1946 CASIMIR obtained employment as a referent with the Neukölln branch of the Berlin City Administration, Legal Division. Finding his salary inadequate, CASIMIR looked for a more lucrative position, and in the late fall of 1946 obtained employment with the recently-formed German Administration for the Interior at Berlin - Wilhelmsruhe. First employed as assistant legal counsel, he soon became the referent in charge of Dept K/A-e of the Criminal Police Division (the section dealing with all legal matters affecting the administration of the Criminal Police). He became the acting deputy chief of the Criminal Police Division, with the title of Regierungsrat.

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ENCLOSURE

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DATE 29 Apr 1957	

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

*Read from EEF/46
19 June 1953*

4. After the war CASIMIR became a member of the Social Democratic Party. After obtaining employment with the Interior Administration he announced his resignation from the SPD and entered the SED. Actually, however, he maintained his SPD membership in secret, and showed the undersigned his currently paid-up SPD party book. Herr DREHALD, incidentally, assured BLUMFELSTER of CASIMIR's political reliability. CASIMIR himself stated that he joined the Administration of the Interior without realizing the true nature of that organization. He believed it was a German administration in more than name, but he became gradually disillusioned after seeing the extent of Russian domination and communist control. Following the events of late March and April, he decided to place his services at the disposal of the Americans and thus help combat the spread of communism in a small way. Questioned as to what events he was specifically referring to, CASIMIR stated he meant the reorganization of the border police, the campaign in the Soviet-licensed press about the alleged influx of "bandits" from the West, the allegations that 40,000 people had been deported from the American Sector of Berlin, and so forth. These items had a particularly sobering influence on him because, as a ranking criminal police official, he had personal knowledge that the items headlined by the Soviet press just were not true. CASIMIR further stated, in explaining his motivation, that he wanted some kind of "insurance". Assuming that war broke out and the Americans won the war, which he did not doubt, he wanted assurance that he would not perhaps be considered as having committed a "crime against humanity" merely because he worked for the German Administration of the Interior. He was concerned because many decent people who worked in subordinate and clerical positions in the Criminal Police under the Nazis were automatically transferred into the SS or the Volkspolizei when the Criminal Police was absorbed by the Reichsausschuss.

5. [redacted] explained to CASIMIR that no assurances of any kind could be given until he has proven his value. As an experienced Kripo man, [redacted] should be able to understand that we cannot trust him until he has proven himself in the future, then only after we had an opportunity to see the information he brings us. No briefs will be given him until we are satisfied we trust his discretion to bring us material of interest to the US authorities. After a trial period of [redacted] relationship with us will be subject to review. [redacted] and acceptable by CASIMIR and the [redacted] for the second [redacted] of 20 May 1948.

6. On 20 May 1948 CASIMIR met [redacted] at German [redacted] headquarters, [redacted] the US Sector, and submitted the following material:

- a. 10-page handwritten report on problems facing the German Administration of the Interior, and its relationships with the SED, the Central Secretariat of the SED, and other organizations in the Soviet Zone.
- b. Detailed organizational plan of the "K" Division, including the mission and personnel of the individual branches.
- c. Original letter to the chief of the "K" Division, ordering the Criminal Police Section to engage in counter intelligence activities.
- d. Original letter signed by President RESCHKE on the subject of submitting reports on incidents suitable for propaganda exploitation.
- e. Confidential hand book on police reporting procedure in the Soviet Zone.
- f. Issue of the magazine "Volkspolizei" issued to the police in the Soviet Zone.

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g. Miscellaneous other documents of no intelligence interest.

Some of the above material will be disseminated in the form of BSC reports. The next meeting was set for Thursday, 27 May 1948.

7. This project is in a developmental stage. A code name will be assigned to CASIMIR in the near future. Completed agent control forms will be submitted as soon as our relations with him justify it. A Military Government Fragebogen is being submitted with this report.

8. [] and the undersigned believe that CASIMIR's story is generally true, and that his motivation for helping the United States is genuine. The possibility of his being a penetration agent was considered and discarded for the following reasons:

a. The documents he brought us were undoubtedly genuine, and were of such nature that their disclosure would harm Soviet interests.

b. CASIMIR lives with wife and four small children in the US Sector. It is unlikely that he would jeopardize their livelihood and safety by accepting a mission against the Americans, who, after all, might pass through the scheme.

c. CASIMIR maintained in secret his SPD membership, and was recommended by DEWALD and BLIEMEISTER, who, as far as anti-communist sentiments are concerned, are believed absolutely reliable.

d. CASIMIR made no effort to get information from us, and accepted our instructions without question. His position in the GAI was []

e. [] method in arranging the first contact and his behavior since then lead us to believe in his sincerity.

Naturally, however, he will be watched for some time to come on the basis that he might be a penetration agent.

9. [] description: [] ties, 5' 6" tall; muscular but thin; high forehead; thinning [] brown hair parted in the middle; weight about 140 lbs; brown eyes; wears horn rimmed glasses. No special identification.

C E []
Chier, SC Berlin

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